REMARKS

Amendments to the abstract are being presented to more closely conform the subject matter to standard U.S. practice and idiomatic English and are intended to be cosmetic in nature. Furthermore, these amendments have not been made to overcome a rejection. Thus, these amendments should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Yasuhiro NONAKA et al.

083630M

Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

April 29, 2004 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191